

APR 28 2003

PTO/SB/30 (5/2000)

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**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. §132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/302,679
Filing Date	April 30, 1999
First Named Inventor	Shunpei Yamazaki, et al.
Group Art Unit	2815
Examiner Name	Lourdes Cruz
Attorney Docket Number	07977-165002

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114**a. ☒ Previously submittedi. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on March 23, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____iii. ☐ Other _____b. ☒ Enclosedi. ☐ Amendment/Replyii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)iv. ☐ Other _____2. **Miscellaneous**a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103 for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)b. ☐ Other _____3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)iii. ☒ Other Any deficienciesb. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 860 enclosedc. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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02 FC:1251750.00 OP
110.00 OP**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Scott C. Harris	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,030
Signature		Date	April 21, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSIONI hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to **Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231** or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: April 21, 2003

Name (Print/Type)	Roxanne Ippolito	Date	April 21, 2003
Signature			